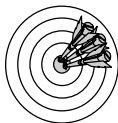


Student's Financial Aid Package



Section Overview

This section discusses the financial aid award letter. You will be lead through an activity that will cover the components of a financial aid award letter, then you will go through a series of case studies of financial aid award letters to reinforce the student's process of selecting a school according to award packages. By reviewing financial aid in this manner, you will have the opportunity to review some of the processes and discussions that occur while selecting aid and receiving loan entrance counseling for student loans.



Objectives

At the end of this section, participants will be able to:

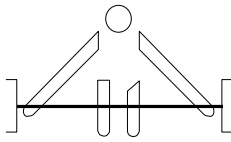
- ⇒ Describe different types of student aid including loans, grants, and work study
- ⇒ Explain the components of a financial aid award letter
- ⇒ Demonstrate the school selection process based on financial aid awards from the students perspective
- ⇒ Explain how SFA impacts students



Activities

⇒ There is one exercise in this section:

- Exercise #1 – Elements of a financial aid award letter and award letter case studies



Exercise #1: Available student aid

Scenario

Financial aid award letters display the effect of financial aid on a student's ability to attend college. This activity covers the components of a financial aid award letter. Using the materials found in **ATTACHMENT 3**, the different components of the award letter will be explained. After the components of an award letter are explained, each team will analyze three award letters found in **ATTACHMENT 4**. Each team will select one award letter as the best, discuss the selection, and write the results on a flip chart. The team will then select one member to explain their decision to the room. Keep in mind that just as a student must weigh different criteria as to why a financial aid award is the best (cost against education, scholarship amounts against loan amounts), your team will be required to use similar thinking when making the decision. Once every team has completed the exercise, the counselor will reinforce the main points of each team's selection.

For More information see - Financial Aid The Student Guide

The student receives an offer letter from the accepting school notifying the student of the amount of financial aid awarded. The offer letter can also be referred to as a Financial Aid Award letter. The Financial Aid Award letter has four parts.

- Award notification
- Expected family contribution and school cost
- Actual aid awarded
- Acceptance of aid agreement

The award notification welcomes the student to the financial aid process and generally stipulates when correspondence should be made with the school in order to accept all or part of the award letter.

The school cost and expected family contribution section denotes the cost of attendance (COA) for the next school year. This

amount will also specify tuition, out of state costs, room and board, personal costs, and fees expected for books and supplies.

The actual aid awarded section displays the student's award package. This package will include government loans, grants, work-study, and school specific scholarships. Although this tends to be the most comprehensive group of financial aid, the student may have additional aid in the form of private loans and scholarships that will not appear in the award section but will be used to cover the cost of a year's education.

The final section of the financial aid award letter asks that the student accept or deny each piece of the award letter. This is done to free excess monies that are not needed and allows it to be reallocated to other students. A student may reject all or part of an award letter.